

PREFACE

During May 3 – 8, 2009, the Alexander Koenig Zoological Research Museum (ZFMK) hosted the 6th International Tropical Zoology Symposium. This series of symposia was established in 1984 with the intention of bringing together specialists from various fields of tropical research to contribute to a better understanding of the organisms found in the most complex ecosystems, those spanning the Earth around the equator.

The 6th symposium in 2009 was organized by the curators of the Vertebrate Department. The topic “Tropical Vertebrates in a Changing World” was chosen to draw attention to the stochastic impacts of climate change and direct man-made habitat alterations on various levels of vertebrate communities.

Symposium sessions were arranged geographically (Africa and Madagascar, Central and South America, South-East Asia), and opened by six plenary talks.

The meeting was attended by over 150 colleagues from 16 nations: Australia, Ecuador, Kenya, Madagascar, South Africa, Thailand, USA, Vietnam, and eight European countries. A total of 50 oral presentations and 23 posters were featured.

The papers published in this proceedings issue are arranged in taxonomic order, ranging from fishes, amphibians, and reptiles to birds and mammals. All contributions were peer-reviewed.

I wish to express my special thanks to my colleagues from the ZFMK Vertebrate Department for the excellent organization of the symposium, and to the many student helpers. Jobst Pfaender, however, stands out for his painstaking efforts to keep all administrative matters under control.

Last but of course not least, I thank the authors and reviewers for their excellent cooperation and patience throughout the process of editing this volume. Superb editorial help was provided by Alexandra Schuh and Brian Hillcoat.

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